

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
PAUL EDWARD THORNTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work of Sergeant Paul Thornton as he retires from a life of public service. He has served the citizens of the State of Texas, in the communities of Houston, Huntsville, and The Colony as a police officer for over 34 years.

Sergeant Thornton began his law enforcement career in 1988 when he was hired as a police officer with the University of Houston Central Campus Police Department. He attended the Harris County Sheriff's Office Academy. Between 1988 and 1992, Sergeant Thornton also worked as a police officer with the Sam Houston State University Police Department and the Walker County Sheriffs Office. During this time he also earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University.

On September 2, 1992, Sergeant Thornton was hired by The Colony Police Department. Just a year later, he was named The Colony PD's "Officer of The Year". In 1995, he became The Colony PD's first and only K9 Officer. He and his K9 colleague, Major, a narcotic detection dog, worked the streets several years combating illegal narcotics.

In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. After his promotion, he served as both a Night Shift and Day Shift Patrol Sergeant. As a Patrol Sergeant, he has been in charge of the Crossing Guards, Bike Patrol Unit, Traffic Enforcement Division and the departments off-duty employment program. He has also served as the department's Criminal Investigations Supervisor and the Internal Affairs Sergeant.

In 1999, he met the love of his life and wife, Karen Thornton. Karen is a United States Air Force Veteran and holds a Master's Degree from the University of Texas-Austin. Sergeant Thornton and his wife have three children, Alex, Samantha, and Tyler; and two grandchildren, Clayden and Reagan Thornton.

Sergeant Thornton has devoted over 34 years faithfully serving and protecting his community. For more than three decades, he has put strangers' safety above his own, and we are indebted to him. I am deeply grateful for his service to our community and state, and I wish Sergeant Thornton and his family the best in his retirement.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY F.
MASTERNICK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dorothy F. Masternick, who passed away on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at the age of 96. She was a pillar of our community, a servant of others, and an example of how our lives and talents are meant to be shared.

Dorothy was born November 3, 1925, in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, the daughter of

William J. and Annabelle (Onspaugh) Fritz. Dorothy graduated from Beaver Falls High School and Jameson Memorial School of Nursing in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

She worked in a wartime factory as a bomb inspector during WWII while attending nursing school. While working as a registered nurse at North Side Hospital she attended Youngstown State University where she met her future husband, John Masternick. They married on June 25, 1949, and together they co-owned, developed, and operated Windsor House Nursing Homes.

Dorothy was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church and was very active in the catholic community. She served as President of the Youngstown Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Bishops Advisory Board, Retired Priests Commission, Ohio Catholic Conference, was an advocate of catholic school education, and organized a monthly rosary group. She was especially active in the Cursillo movement which shaped her commitment to care for the elderly in our community with compassion and dignity. Along with her husband, they established the John and Dorothy Masternick Foundation which provides funding to catholic education and scholarships for local high school graduates and nursing students, as well as establishing the nursing simulation laboratory at Youngstown State University.

Dorothy was a natural caregiver and had strong faith. She loved to host Sunday dinner, bridge club and loved to read and paint. After retiring she enjoyed spending time in Florida but her favorite thing to do was to spoil her grandchildren, especially at Christmas.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her children: two sons, Jeffrey (Terri) Masternick, and Atty. John J. (Melissa) Masternick and two daughters, Maria Masternick and Theresa (Leo) Grimes; grandchildren, John Colby Grimes, Daniel (Stacy) Grimes, Ken Grimes, John Michael Masternick, Christopher Masternick, Alyssa Masternick, Kevin (Erica) Pangio, and Amy Pangio; great-grandson, Dean Grimes; nephew, Greg (Cheryl) Hardy; great-niece, Jennifer, and great-nephew, Jason. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her sister, Mildred Hardy, and her brother, Donald W. Fritz.

RECOGNIZING LANE CHANGE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of a local nonprofit in my district for their commitment to ending substance abuse.

Lane Change was established by Lauren and Cory Mitchell, along with Brad and Stacy Segebarth, after local resident Lane Austin died from a fatal overdose while waiting for an available inpatient drug treatment facility. Within less than three short years, Lane Change has transformed many lives through education, outreach, and prevention in the Lebanon Community. Most importantly, their organization has helped families receive counseling and inpatient treatment for substance abuse through local and regional partnerships. Their network has become a vital resource for

patients and probationary drug offenders, something that did not exist when Lane Austin lost his life over three years ago.

Founder and executive director, Lauren Mitchell, is continually expanding her vision for Lane Change as she recognizes more unmet needs in her community. Her organization does not simply want to treat the symptoms of substance abuse but address the fundamental problems that drive it. Like many programs, their leadership understands that substance abuse is frequently linked with mental illnesses or social trauma in childhood and adolescence, making early intervention crucial to prevention. Lane Change has already outgrown their current facility as they have expanded their program to include a safe place for local students to spend time away from troubled home environments.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of donors and community volunteers. I am proud of each one and for Lauren Mitchell whose vision and commitment made this nonprofit possible. She has already made a tremendous impact. In the coming years, I look forward to watching Lane Change continue to grow and transform lives in southwest Missouri.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Marjorie Roberts of Johns Creek, Georgia. As we continue our celebration of Black History Month, we recognize Black men and women from throughout the past and present who have made an indelible mark on the story of our nation. I am proud to say that Dr. Roberts is a woman who is doing just that: making her own mark on history by sharing her story and her smile through advocacy on behalf of COVID-19 survivors nationwide.

Dr. Marjorie Roberts grew up the youngest member of her family. In 1980, she gave birth to her daughter, whom she calls her best friend. She is a mother, a wife, and a veteran of the United States Army. She attended Capella University and obtained her Doctorate of Business Administration with a Specialization in Strategy and Innovation in 2014. In 2019, she earned her Life Coaching Certification. She works with clients to achieve progress, reach milestones, and transform their lives.

In March of 2020, Dr. Roberts tested positive for COVID-19. By grace, she survived her initial case of COVID, which included a stay in the hospital. But she is one of the millions of COVID survivors who are considered "long haulers," patients who continue to battle symptoms of the virus for weeks and months after their initial illness. Since then, she has faced health issues that have prevented her from living her life in the same way she did prior to getting COVID-19. In addition to her own challenges, Dr. Roberts also lost a dear friend to COVID-19, Sergeant Gary Mitchell, with whom she served in the Army.

As a COVID-19 survivor and long hauler, Dr. Roberts has made it her life's mission to

help fellow survivors face the challenges that follow in the wake of a COVID diagnosis. She works with the organization COVID Survivors for Change to support fellow survivors, remember those who have died, and advocate for strong public health measures to prevent future pandemics. In the face of her ongoing struggle and through the pain of losing a loved one, Dr. Roberts continues to advocate on behalf of others through her work with COVID Survivors for Change. Despite her grief and pain, Dr. Roberts says that she always has something to smile about. Her resolve and her passion are evident in her words and deeds, and I am so proud of the work that she is doing.

As we celebrate Black History Month, may we be reminded of Black men and women's enormous contributions to the United States each and every day. It is a true honor to represent Dr. Roberts in Congress and recognize her today for the work she has done to help others even at a time when her own life has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. I am proud to call Dr. Roberts a constituent, and grateful for the opportunity to uplift her during this year's celebration of Black History Month.

HONORING NASHUA FIRE CHIEF
BRIAN RHODES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding career in public service of Nashua Fire Chief Brian Rhodes. It is with great pride that I join others in honoring Brian's commitment to the City of Nashua.

Brian's career with the Nashua Fire Department was marked with many milestones and achievements. He has attended the National Fire Academy and successfully graduated from both the Fire Service Financial Management and Executive Planning programs. Brian started his career with the Nashua Fire Department in 1987. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000, Captain in 2004, Deputy Chief in 2011, Assistant Chief in June of 2015 and took over as Chief in April of 2018. In 2018, Chief Rhodes joined me in Washington, D.C. to share his work combating the opioid epidemic with Members of Congress. I appreciate Chief Rhodes unwavering commitment to serving his community and sharing his expertise with leaders from across the country.

I commend Chief Rhodes on his retirement after more than three decades with the Nashua Fire Department and on his unwavering dedication to the Granite State. Chief Rhodes also served as a State Representative from 2008 to 2014 representing Nashua Ward 3 in the New Hampshire General Court—a testament to his dedication to making the Granite State a better place.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Brian for his many years of service, and for being a part of what makes the Granite State so great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Brian on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF VFW POST—
8896

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize VFW Post-8896 located in East Berlin, Pennsylvania on their seventy-five years of operation. Post 8896 is named in honor of Richard J. Gross, a native of Pennsylvania and a member of the United States Army-Airforce who gave his life on September 8, 1943, while flying a combat mission over New Guinea while serving as a radio operator and gunner on a B-24 Liberator Bomber.

In 1947, a group of veterans carried on the legacy and memory of Richard J. Gross and opened Post-8896.

For more than seven decades, the Post's members have remained dedicated to helping veterans and their families, building community fellowship, and promoting awareness for the sacrifices that our veterans have made.

On behalf of the people of the 13th Congressional District, it is my great honor to congratulate the Richard J. Gross VFW on seventy-five years of service to veterans of Adams County. I thank them for their great work and dedication to our community.

HONORING EDWARD "ED" A.
TORIELLO

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, Edward "Ed" A. Toriello, a World War II veteran, as he celebrates his 100th birthday today.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Ed Toriello proudly served his country in Patton's 3rd Army during World War II. In 1944, he was a recent graduate from St. John's University's Divinity School looking to enter the priesthood when a week later, he answered the call to serve his country. Following six months of training he was sent to the European Theatre where he first served as a combat medic, then a scout in the 76th infantry regiment. Ed was supposed to remain in the country and go to Officer Candidate School, but at the height of the war, the Army needed more enlisted men, and he was immediately deployed overseas. During the frigid winter of 1944-45, he and his unit were sent to help stop the last German offensive of the war at the Battle of the Bulge. The 76th infantry regiment was then tasked with securing the Remagen Bridge in March of 1945, a crucial action that allowed the Allies to enter Germany. This single event's success is credited with shortening the war.

Throughout his service, Ed exemplified bravery and resilience as his unit suffered heavy losses. Edward is a decorated soldier, earning numerous commendations including 3 Service Stars, the Combat Medic Badge, and the Combat Infantry Rifle Badge. After Ger-

many's surrender, he was assigned to the U.S. sector in Southern Germany where he was offered to then attend Officer Candidate School as he had originally intended. Instead, he decided to return to civilian life and as he describes it, "the rest was history".

Ed Toriello returned to Brooklyn where he met his wife to be, Zina Toriello nee Caruba, and together they went on to have six children. They ultimately moved to Southern Ocean County in 1977 where he quickly became a beacon of positivity within the community. He remained active as a community volunteer and leader in numerous organizations such as Kiwanis International, Italian American Social and Civic Association, and the Knights of Columbus. Ed also served as a trustee for three decades with South Ocean's Medical Center and started a beloved local fundraising concert for the facility that has raised over \$100,000 to date. Today, Ed enjoys watching the Yankees and cooking for his friends and family.

Edward A. Toriello is a distinguished member of our community whose heroic actions during the Second World War set the trajectory for a life of servitude that has positively impacted those around him and will continue to benefit generations to come.

HONORING KAREN FERGUSON OF
THE PENSION RIGHTS CENTER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Karen Ferguson, the President of the Pension Rights Center, and recognize her as a true champion for the rights of pensioners. Karen was a leader on an issue that is of particular importance to me; namely, the retirement security of workers, retirees, and their families. For over 45 years, Karen was significantly involved in protecting pensioners rights through the development of pension legislation in Congress, and recently I witnessed her tireless advocacy first-hand as we worked to enact the Butch Lewis Act.

An alum of Harvard Law School and Bryn Mawr College, Karen founded the Pension Rights Center. The Pension Rights Center, with Karen as president and leader, has been instrumental in advocating for and drafting new regulations and laws, including the Retirement Equity Act of 1984, the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and the Butch Lewis Act of 2021.

Karen was widely known and respected on Capitol Hill and testified at many congressional and regulatory hearings. She will be remembered for her passion and depth of knowledge.

I join the millions of pensioners around the country in expressing gratitude for Karen's tenacity. She will be deeply missed. I send my deepest sympathies to all who loved her, the Ferguson family, her friends, and her colleagues.